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the only remark which I made in my paper upon this subject. In a challenge I am asked by Prof. Morse on what authority I have stated that the Ainos have platycnemic tibiæ, and further Prof. Morse would have me regarded as the author of such a statement.

Assuming that what I have said places me in the responsible position which Prof. Morse, by wrongly interpreting my words, is evidently desirous that I should occupy, I will say, that if Prof. Morse had acquainted himself with the literature relating to the Ainos, he would most certainly have avoided remarks upon this subject, and thus have saved himself from a predicament which, to say the least, looks extremely awkward.

As an answer to Prof. Morse, let him refer to the well-known *Russische Revue* (10 Heft, VI Jahrgang), edited by Carl Röttger. He will there find a quantity of valuable information relating to the Ainos, and amongst the rest something bearing on the point now under discussion, of which the following is a translation: "With reference to the anatomy (of the Ainos) it is remarkable that the humerus as well as the tibia has a very striking form; they are marked by an *extraordinary flattening* (*außerordentliche abplattung*) such as has, up to the present, never been noticed of those bones in any people at present in existence. On the other hand this peculiarity of form has been observed in the bones of extinct people found in caves." (The italics are mine.) Further remarks upon Prof. Morse's attack are, I think, unnecessary. If those who are interested in this subject will refer to my original article, it will be seen that much of what Prof. Morse has objected to, is due either to his misrepresentation of my language, or to his want of information on some of the subjects he has written upon; and I can assure your readers that the whole of his remarks may be answered as easily as the subject of platycnemic tibia has been answered.—*John Milne, Imperial College of Engineering, Tokio, Japan, Oct. 19, 1880.*

THE BOTANY OF CALIFORNIA, VOL. II, BY SERENO WATSON.—This beautiful volume is fully equal in beauty of finish, and botanical interest to its predecessor, which appeared in 1876.

The same externally, it internally presents the large clear type, and broad margins which distinguished the earlier volume. This volume begins with the Apetalæ, which includes twenty-five orders. Of these the Polygonaceæ and Chenopodiaceæ are particularly interesting on account of the numerous species of Eriogonum (52) and Chorizanthe (25) of the former, and of Atriplex (21) of the latter. The nineteen species of willows, are arranged and described by M. S. Bebb. Dr. Engelmann contributes the article on the oaks, of which there are fourteen species.

The Gymnosperms are placed, as is usual in English and American works, before the Monocotyledons. The Gnetaceæ are represented in California by two species of Ephedra, viz: *E. nevadensis* (a shrub two feet high) and *E. californica*. The Taxa-

ceæ are separated from the Coniferæ as a distinct order, including *Torreya*, with one species, *T. californica*, and *Taxus*, represented by *T. brevifolia*. The Coniferæ, proper, include eleven genera and thirty-four species. Of the latter, at least, sixteen exceed one hundred feet in height, and no less than eleven of these reach or exceed the height of two hundred feet. The Abietinæ are described by Dr. Engelman, and the arrangement is consequently the most recent. Instead of the old genus *Abies*, as we all learned it in Gray's Manual, we have *Abies*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Tsuga*, and *Picea*. Under *Pinus* there are fourteen species.

In the Monocotyledons, the Orchidaceæ are not numerous. This is, however, not the case with the Liliaceæ, represented by thirty-one genera. Many of the genera are rich in species, *e. g.*, *Allium* with twenty-three; *Brodiaea* with fourteen; *Lilium* with eight; *Fritillaria*, eight; *Calochortus*, twenty-one. Three palms are described as occurring in the southern part of the State, viz: *Washingtonia filifera*, *Erythea edulis* and *E. armata*. The sedges and grasses, the latter by Dr. Thurber, occupy more than one hundred pages of the volume. Nearly one hundred more pages are filled with descriptions of the vascular Acrogens (by Prof. Eaton), and the cellular Acrogens (Musci and Sphagnaceæ only). Fifty pages of "additions and corrections," mostly to Vol. I, an excellent index, a glossary, and a "List of persons who have made botanical collections in California," by Prof. Brewer, complete this volume. The authors (Brewer, Watson and Gray, for Vol. I, and Watson, for Vol. II) are to be congratulated upon the successful completion of this great work, and the liberal-handed business men of the Golden State are to be commended for their public spirit in furnishing the means for its publication after the Legislature had refused to do so. No other State is now provided with so excellent a work upon its native plants.—*C. E. B.*

BALBIANI'S LECTURES ON THE GENERATION OF VERTEBRATES.¹—This work corresponds in some degree to that of Kölliker on the development of man and the higher animals, but is confined rather to the earliest stages of development, and particularly to the mode of formation of the egg and the male reproductive elements, subjects now occupying very closely the attention of observers in the different countries of Europe, while unfortunately our own land does not contain in its population of 50,000,000, so far as we are aware, a single person who is studying the points regarding early vertebrate development in an original way. Should there be any one desirous of examining into the subject, he would find the volume before us, although a little *passé* in some points recently worked out by E. Van Beneden, McLeod, Balfour, and probably several biologists in Germany,

¹ *Leçons sur la Génération des Vertébrés.* Par G. BALBIANI. Recueillies par le Dr. F. HENNEGUY, Revues par le Professeur. Avec 150 figures intercalées dans le texte et 6 planches en chromo-lithographie hors texte. Paris, O. Doin, 1879.